AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-15. (Canceled)

16.   (Currently Amended) A method for enabling a receiver in a digital subscriber network to request services, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

receiving, at a receiver, a dynamic network information table inserted within a transport stream from a first device, the dynamic network information table <u>including to</u> <u>separate subtables comprising:</u>

a device-specific subtable ~~and an upstream subtable, the device-specific~~ ~~subtable~~ including information associated with transmission characteristics of the first device, the first device positioned in the digital subscriber network upstream with respect to the receiver, <u>the device-specific subtable including an identifier</u> <u>specific to the transport stream, and</u>

<u>a</u> [the] upstream subtable <u>comprising one or more other device-specific</u> <u>subtables respectively</u> including information associated with transmission characteristics of one or more devices positioned in the digital subscriber network upstream with respect to the first device, wherein the transmission characteristics include the current network status and the current level of available bandwidth for each transport stream communicating with the first device<u>, the upstream subtable</u>

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including a link status for each of the one or more devices positioned in the digital

subscriber network upstream with respect to the first device; and

transmitting a request for a service, the requested service including at least a

portion of the information included in the dynamic network information table.

17.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further including the steps

of:

identifying from the dynamic network information table an upstream device

associated with the requested service; and

including the identification of the upstream device in the transmitted request for

the service.

18.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further including the step

of:

identifying a controller associated with the identified upstream device;

wherein transmitting the request for the service includes transmitting the request

to the controller.

19.   (Original) The method of claim 16, further including the steps of:

determining a communication path through the digital subscriber network for the

requested service; and

including the communication path in the transmitted request for the service.

20.   (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the communication path is determined based upon network information included in the received dynamic network information table.

21.-24.   (Canceled)

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the dynamic network information table is included in a packet having a reserved packet identifier associated therewith.

26.   (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the packet is a program association table packet.

27.-34.   (Canceled)

35.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus in a digital network coupled to a first communication link and a second communication link, the apparatus comprising:

an input port adapted to receive a first transport stream through a first communication link, the first transport stream including a first dynamic network information table, the first dynamic network information table including network information related to an identifier corresponding to an upstream device in communication with the first communication link, the first dynamic network information table including an identifier specific to the first transport stream;

a processor in communication with the input port, the processor adapted to determine network information related to the received transport stream, wherein the network information <u>related to the received transport stream</u> includes [[the]] <u>a plurality of</u> current network <u>link</u> status <u>indicators</u> and [[the]] a current level of available bandwidth [[for]] <u>corresponding to</u> each transport stream communicating with the upstream device, the processor further adapted to create a second dynamic network information table, the second dynamic network information table having an identifier associated with said apparatus and the network information included in the first dynamic network information table; and

a transmitter in communication with the processor, the transmitter adapted to transmit the second dynamic network information table through the second communication link.

36.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the processor is further adapted to insert the second dynamic network information table in a second transport stream, and the transmitter is adapted to transmit the second transport stream.

37.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the second transport stream includes multiple elementary streams of the first transport stream.

38.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the network information includes a transport stream identifier for the first transport stream.

39.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the network information includes transport stream information related to the first transport stream.

40.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the transport stream information includes information related to the type of packets contained in the first transport stream.

41.   (Canceled)

42.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the processor is further adapted to periodically create dynamic network information tables based on information specific to said apparatus and based on dynamic network information tables received at the input port.

43.   (Canceled)

44.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the first dynamic network information table is included in a program association table of the first transport stream.

45.   (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the second dynamic network information table is included in a program association table of the second transport stream.

47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 35, further comprising a plurality of transmitters, each transmitter having an identifier associated therewith, wherein the processor is adapted to create a dynamic network information table having a transmitter identifier included therein for each transmitter.

48. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the processor is further adapted to monitor the first communication link and respond to changes in the first communication link by generating an alert message and sending the alert message to the transmitter, wherein the transmitter transmits the alert message through the second communication link.

49. (Currently Amended) A method for propagating network information in a digital broadband delivery system, the method comprising:

receiving in a first device a first transport stream from an upstream device, the first transport stream including a first dynamic network information table, the first dynamic network information table including network information, wherein said network information comprises information related to at least one characteristic of one or more transport streams transmitted within the digital broadband delivery system and information related to an identifier corresponding to an upstream device;

inserting <u>a second dynamic network information comprising</u> the <u>first dynamic network information table</u> ~~network information~~ and information specific to the first device in a packet of a second transport stream, wherein the network information includes the current network <u>link</u> status and the current level of available bandwidth for each transport stream communicating with the first device <u>and the information specific to the first device includes an identifier specific to the second transport stream</u>; and

transmitting the second transport stream to a downstream device.

50.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the network information includes a transport stream identifier (TSID) for the first transport stream.

51.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the network information includes a transport stream identifier (TSID) for the second transport stream.

52.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the network information includes an identification of the first device.

53.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the network information includes an identification of at least one upstream device.

54.   (Canceled)

55.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the network information includes bit error information.

56.-57.   (Canceled)

58.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 49, ~~wherein the network information and information specific to the first device is included in a second dynamic network information table, the method~~ further comprising transmitting the second dynamic network information table from the first device.

59.   (Canceled)

60.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 58, further comprising:

receiving the first transport stream through a first communication link; and

transmitting the second dynamic network information table through a second communication link.

61.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, further comprising:

periodically transmitting the network information.

62.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein the first device receives the transport stream through a first communication link, the method further comprising:

determining a first set of values from the network information;

monitoring the first communication link to determine a second set of network information values; and

responding to a change between the first set of network information values and the second set of network information values by transmitting the second set of network information values through a second communication link.

63.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, further comprising:

periodically receiving a dynamic network information table in the received transport stream; and

responding to a change in the periodicity of received dynamic network information tables by sending an alert message.